

2020

# winter park update

june thru august



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vision

*Winter Park is the city of arts and culture, cherishing its traditional scale and charm while building a healthy and sustainable future for all generations.*



## Orange Avenue Overlay recap & update

Over the next few months, the City Commission will be re-discussing and revising the Orange Avenue Overlay (OAO) District. The process was initiated following the recent City Commission election where the OAO District was a major topic of discussion. If you are unfamiliar with the OAO District, I'd like to offer you a historical outline of this project and our next steps.

The city has discussed the possible redevelopment of Orange Avenue for many years. A policy to create a Mixed-Use Overlay District was adopted in the 2017 Comprehensive Plan update, and city staff was directed to create a process that would bring this forward. Shortly after Planning & Community Development Director Bronze Stephenson was hired in October 2018, the city began the extensive public process to develop a plan for the OAO District.

An 11-member OAO District Steering Committee was appointed in May 2019. Numerous publicly advertised meetings were held where stakeholders, property owners, neighborhood groups, condo associations, and individual citizens were invited to attend, provide input, comment or ask questions. Additionally, staff continually gave updates and held discussions with the Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Board at both their regular monthly meetings and work sessions, as well as held individual meetings with each board member to answer questions.



## mayor's message

Before their vote on the OAO District, P&Z held one dedicated work session on the topic. There were also over 40 hours of City Commission work sessions, all open to the public regarding the OAO District. During

these meetings topics such as traffic, open space, parking, architecture, placemaking, mobility and much more were discussed. Surveys as well as written and verbal feedback

were the various ways the public offered input into the creation of the OAO District.

The public meetings were strategically customized depending on the audience and focus. One specifically was intended to give the public a first-hand opportunity to experience Orange Avenue as a pedestrian during OAO District "Walkshop." Attendees walked and stopped at 10 different locations to have meaningful discussions and to share observations. Approximately 50 people attended and found it to be a worthwhile and new type of planning input opportunity.



Traffic studies and transportation analysis of the Overlay were performed by a consultant, Kimley Horn & Associates. As a part of the studies, modeling of future development impacts were performed as well.

The studies and modeling gave a number of solutions that would address current and future traffic conditions, including safety (this area is the most dangerous area in town for all modes of transportation). Also, per statutory requirement, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) assessed

the Overlay and the entitlements proposed. They plugged the entitlements and maximum development potential into their model to assess if any significant adverse impacts to state roads within three miles of the subject area are created. The FDOT stated that the adopted amendment was not anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts to the State Highway System and/or the Strategic Intermodal System. These traffic studies can be found at [cityofwinterpark.org/planning](http://cityofwinterpark.org/planning).

### November 13, 2019

OAo District Steering Committee voted 8-2 to recommend approval of the final draft language, with minor changes. The city-owned Progress Point property was the only property in question about development, scale and use.

### December 3

Planning & Zoning Board voted unanimously to approve the OAo District without any changes. The board was also heavily involved with the OAo District creation throughout the process.

### December 2019 to March 2020

City Commission held 13 work sessions to discuss the OAo District, all open to the public.

### January 13 & 16, 2020

First reading of OAo Ordinances.

### January 22

Comprehensive Plan Ordinance transmitted to the state of Florida review agencies per Florida Statute requirements. The state agencies did not return any suggested changes.

### March 9

Second reading of the OAo District ordinances that resulted in a 3-2 approval with amendments.

### March 17

Election of new City Commissioners for Seat 1 and Seat 2.

### March 23

Special City Commission meeting scheduled to hear first reading of the Ordinance to rescind the OAo District ordinances.

### April 8

Petition filed for Administrative Hearing challenging adoption of the OAo District Ordinance.

### April 13

Second reading of Ordinance to rescind the OAo District ordinances was approved with a 4-1 vote. The City Commission stated that they repealed the OAo District to allow more time for staff to provide analysis and data, and to offer the public additional information and opportunity for public comment.

### April 21

Notice given to the city of petitioners' voluntary dismissal of their Petition for Formal Administrative Hearing challenging the OAo District Ordinance.

### April 24

Lawsuit filed challenging OAo District rescission ordinance.

### Next steps [at time of writing, May 1]

- City staff was working with the Commissioners to provide necessary analysis and data to bring back the OAo District for consideration.
- Review of the new data and analysis.
- Additional public meetings with City Commission, property owners and residents.
- OAo District returns to Planning & Zoning Board for review and approval.
- OAo District returns to City Commission to make the policy decisions on the future of the OAo.

Sincerely,



Mayor Steve Leary

For additional public input opportunities, please access [cityofwinterpark.org/planning](http://cityofwinterpark.org/planning).

# Hurricane information

It's hard to believe hurricane season is already here, as we are still adjusting to the impact of COVID-19. But June 1 does mark the official start of this year's hurricane season. Before the weather turns dark and stormy, here are all the ways the city communicates storm preparation, management and recovery. Please sign up, follow or visit us at:

- **Website** > [cityofwinterpark.org](http://cityofwinterpark.org)
- **Hurricane Preparedness Guide** > [cityofwinterpark.org/emergency](http://cityofwinterpark.org/emergency)
- **citEnews** > [cityofwinterpark.org/citEnews](http://cityofwinterpark.org/citEnews)  
subscribe & receive info via email
- **OUTREACH** > sign up at [cityofwinterpark.org/outreach](http://cityofwinterpark.org/outreach) for the city's emergency alert system where you can receive a phone call, text or email with important information
- **Facebook** page > [@WinterParkEmergencyInfo](https://facebook.com/WinterParkEmergencyInfo)
- **Twitter** > [@WinterParkFla](https://twitter.com/WinterParkFla)
- **Nextdoor** > sign up at [nextdoor.com](http://nextdoor.com)

[below goes live upon Emergency Operations Center activation]

- Non-emergency information line **407-599-3494**
- Message Center email [MessageCenter@cityofwinterpark.org](mailto:MessageCenter@cityofwinterpark.org)

While the weather is calm, please make sure to like, follow or subscribe to one or more of the tools above so you can stay informed.



A blue and white logo with the words "quick tip" in a stylized font.

## in observance of Independence Day

### City Hall will be closed

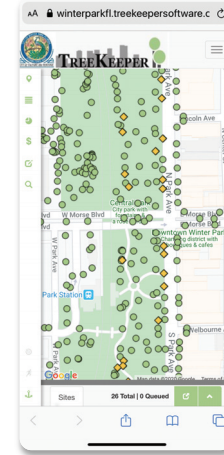
### Friday, July 3, 2020

There will be Waste Pro® services on your normally scheduled household garbage, yard waste and recycling services day.

### Have a safe & enjoyable holiday!

# Explore your urban forest

One of Winter Park's most treasured assets is its lush tree canopy. In a roughly 10-square-mile area, the city's Urban Forestry Division maintains and manages an active inventory database of over 22,000 trees in city parks and rights of way. This inventory is possible due to the implementation of a new TreeKeeper software which allows Urban Forestry staff to manage tree work, analyze inventory, and track progress toward revitalizing the urban forest for future generations.



Although it is an excellent tool for internal staff use, TreeKeeper is also enjoyable for residents and guests to learn more about the trees in our city. By accessing [cityofwinterpark.org/tree-tours](http://cityofwinterpark.org/tree-tours), one can simply walk outside and explore the trees in their neighborhood and city parks. After a few short clicks, users can discover:

- different species lining our streets & populating our beautiful parks
- number of trees planted in recent years  
[SPOILER ALERT: It's more than 2,000!]
- ecological & economic benefits of trees

Perhaps the most exciting development is the [Central Park Tree Species Tour](#). Users can enjoy the free Wi-Fi in Central Park with their mobile device, then take a walking tour of various species located throughout the park. The tour was designed by Urban Forestry staff and represents a sampling of species typically found around Winter Park, as well as a couple of interesting unique species.

As many were drawn to taking walks and riding bikes outside during the recent COVID-19 "Stay at Home" Executive Order, the simple joys of watching wildlife, relaxing in the shade, and listening to the wind rustle the leaves may have been rediscovered. In times like these, trees offer a respite from stress and loneliness. The city hopes you will use this new TreeKeeper resource to enjoy and learn more about our urban forest.

A blue and white logo with the words "quick tip" in a stylized font.

## Friendly irrigation reminder

### you may water your yard 2 days a week

### now through Sunday, November 1





## city manager's report

First and foremost, I hope this article finds you safe, healthy and well. The past few months truly have been unlike any other time in our life, filled with unknowns and uncertainty. Some of us may have family members or friends that have been touched by COVID-19 and to you I send my heartfelt sympathies. For others, during this quarantine, you may have found time to complete your “honey do list” or start projects that you never had time to do; and for many of us, we continued to work through this crisis to provide essential services to others.

At the time of writing, our Stay at Home efforts proved successful in flattening the curve and Florida did not see the impact of COVID-19 that was originally anticipated. On April 29, Governor Ron DeSantis announced his plan for Florida’s recovery and has implemented Phase 1 of the reopening of the state.

As the state and county slowly and methodically reopen, we are also strategically reopening our city. While we were under the “Stay at Home” order, we began putting safeguards in place at city facilities to limit exposure and ensure the safety of the public and our staff for when those facilities are reopened to the public. Most of our advisory board meetings and public events are still cancelled until further notice. Updates on reopenings and announcements related to COVID-19 recovery can be found at [cityofwinterpark.org/emergency](http://cityofwinterpark.org/emergency).

I’m pleased to report we have had a tremendous positive response to the \$1.9 million funding for community support programs the City Commission and Community Redevelopment Agency approved in early April to assist the physical and financial needs of our residents and businesses. As of May 1, the city has distributed more than 2,100 free meals as part of the city’s Feed the Need program, a new partnership with 4Roots and the Florida Department of Agriculture.



Through our Small Business Utility Relief Program, we granted almost \$40,000 in grants spread over 48 businesses. We have allocated \$25,000 with another \$25,000 in dollar-for-dollar matching funds to assist residential utility customers in need. If you would like to make a contribution to help the city achieve that match, please donate at [cityofwinterpark.org/EUA](http://cityofwinterpark.org/EUA).

There were quite a few unexpected things we discovered during the “Stay at Home” order.

- We learned how to meet virtually and often wondered, did the organizer mute me or am I self-muted? And even more alarming, what did I say when I thought I was on mute?
- We became experts in eye-balling what six feet of separation looks like and discovered we have the moves of Walter Payton (I know I am dating myself) when we go down the grocery store aisles.



truck drivers • delivery folks • grocery store staff • factory shifts  
sanitary workers • utility crews • mail carriers • journalists  
teachers • civil employees • service providers

*a huge*  
**THANK YOU!**  
*to our heroes*



volunteers • first responders  
healthcare providers • pharmacies  
military personnel • everyone who is taking care of everyone else

- There was a significant decrease in crime unless you consider binge watching Tiger King on Netflix a crime.
- Fire-Rescue received an increased number of smoke-related calls from the new “chefs” in the kitchen. (TIP: Popcorn takes 3 minutes not 30.)
- The Easter event could last longer than three minutes by modifying the annual egg hunt into a short Easter parade. Thanks to all the families that waved to the bunny from their driveways and made warm signs.
- Water & wastewater saw an increase in flow at the water plants and the daily peaks were in the middle of the day instead of just the morning and evenings. I am not sure what that says about our daytime liquid intake during quarantine.
- With more people outside walking, public works saw an increase in sidewalk repair requests.
- There is significant evidence that our residents have been busy cleaning. Winter Parkers added 55 tons to our normal yard waste and 129 tons to our solid waste collections in just the month of April. That’s a lot of cleaning out!

There were quite a few glimmers of silver linings from this experience as well. We saw many acts of kindness happening in our community as we learned of the needs of our neighbors, friends and even those we didn’t know. A group of volunteers called Winter Park FL Masks Strong, provided hundreds of handmade cloth masks for both city workers and multiple other frontline employees. I’m sure many of you rescued your desperate friends when they were on their last roll of toilet paper, or maybe you were one of the volunteers that helped deliver food, care packages and hand-drawn cards to our seniors.

This experience has changed us. It has changed our lives and it has changed our world. As we try to bring our lives back to normal, we know that our old normal is now being redefined. The threat of COVID-19 still exists and continues to impact hundreds of thousands across the globe with the hope of a vaccine still months or maybe even years away. While we cautiously reintegrate back into “life” it is extremely important to be respectful of all those around you. Your comfort level is most likely much different than your neighbor’s or friend’s, so we all need to continue to take personal responsibility for our own safety and practice the CDC-recommended health precautions, keep a 6’ social distance, wear a mask when closer, and of course, wash your hands.



Thank you for your support and continuing to do your part to stop the spread. I look forward to seeing all of you from at least 6’ away.

Sincerely,

City Manager Randy B. Knight

## Easy energy-saving tips

With many of us working from home to help slow the spread of COVID-19, you may notice an increase in your energy usage and costs in your upcoming electric bills. Here are few energy-saving tips that can help lower your usage without jeopardizing your health and safety.

**replace conventional light bulbs** LEDs are highly energy-efficient and use 75% less energy than conventional bulbs.

**reduce hot water usage** You can reduce the amount of energy used in a load of laundry or dishes by half when you use warm water instead of hot. Using cold water will help you save even more.

**check your thermostat** You can reduce energy usage by up to 5% by increasing your thermostat by just one degree when cooling.

**unplug energy vampires** Chargers and devices that turn on instantly via remote control or have a standby light or clock consume energy even when they are not use. All together, these appliances can account for as much 20% of your monthly bill.

**use natural lighting** Reduce energy usage and save money as well as boost your mood and productivity.

## WPcaring4others

We want to know how the people around you are helping make your life better during this unique time. It can be a family member, neighbor, grocery store clerk, delivery driver, teacher or complete stranger - anyone that is helping keep you and our community safe.

Show us your photo or short video.  
Tell us how they’ve helped you.  
We’ll share & thank them, too.

tag @WinterParkFla  
post w/ #WPcaring4others  
direct message Facebook or Instagram  
email [communications@cityofwinterpark.org](mailto:communications@cityofwinterpark.org)





# events calendar june-august

Please access [cityofwinterpark.org/events](https://cityofwinterpark.org/events) for updates on upcoming things to enjoy.

[due to COVID-19, many events have been canceled or rescheduled]

## Hop on our FREE Wi-Fi in Central & Shady parks

The city recently partnered with local business Frog to launch FREE Wi-Fi service in and around Central Park and Shady Park in the city's downtown business district. Outdoor seating/dining areas near these parks will also have access to this city service funded by the city's Community Redevelopment Agency as part of its downtown enhancement program.

To access the new Wi-Fi service, users should look for [City of Winter Park Wi-Fi by frog](#) in their Wi-Fi list, or simply scan this QR code, which is also available on temporary signage throughout the accessible areas and the city's digital displays.

Based in Winter Park, Frog is a next generation internet and technology provider focused on delivering infrastructure to support smart cities and communities of the future. For questions about Winter Park's new FREE Wi-Fi service, please email [support@frognow.com](mailto:support@frognow.com). For more information regarding Frog, please access [frognow.com](https://frognow.com).



## Summer time = lake safety time

**boating** As a new boating season begins, boaters in the Winter Park chain of lakes will be facing some changes. Adjustments to the state boating law resulted in the removal of the no wake zone designation around the shorelines. This puts added responsibility on boat operators to be alert for swimmers, paddlers and other boats. All state and federal boating regulations apply on Winter Park's lakes and Police Lakes Patrol will be enforcing the rules above as well as all other safety and operating rules. Let's all be courteous boaters and make sure the police have an uneventful summer on the water.



**wildlife** Anyone who spends time on our waterways knows that spring and summer are active times for alligators. These animals are a natural part of our aquatic environment and do not pose much of a risk to people but can become dangerous under certain circumstances. Alligators that lose their fear of humans, are usually responsible for attacks. Feeding alligators is the most common way that this natural fear is lost. Never feed alligators, or leave food around shorelines where alligators may frequent. Never leave dogs or children unattended around shorelines. Alligators normally feed on smaller animals such as fish, turtles, birds or raccoons, but probably cannot distinguish between wild animals and pets (or small people). An adult nearby is usually sufficient to keep even curious alligators from coming too close.



**water quality** Nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus can turn our lakes green with algae. The things we use around our homes and yards can become a source of unwanted water pollution. Access [cityofwinterpark.org/lakes](https://cityofwinterpark.org/lakes) under Water Quality or the Orange County Water Atlas and learn how you can keep our lakes clean and healthy.

these items go in your  
**mixed recycling**



dry, clean paper only  
flattened cardboard



glass bottles,  
jars only



metal  
cans



plastic bottles,  
jugs, tubs only

**NO PLASTIC BAGS**  
GO IN THE RECYCLING BIN

Leave items loose & empty



Return these plastic  
bags to retailer or  
place in trash bin



when in doubt, check it out!

**THINK TWICE**

↳ DON'T WASTE IT WP

[cityofwinterpark.org/think-twice](https://cityofwinterpark.org/think-twice)

## Fairbanks undergrounding

Construction activities have progressed considerably along the 1-mile stretch of Fairbanks Avenue. This project, funded by a Florida Department of Transportation grant, has been a long-term partnership with Duke Energy® of Florida and the city to convert the existing power lines and utilities from overhead to underground. As of May, Duke has completed the relocation of the existing overhead transmission lines to underground. In addition, the city has completed relocation of the overhead distribution lines to underground. Now, with both transmission and distribution lines underground, the city has a fully energized underground electric system.



The city has started removal of the large steel and concrete transmission poles and overhead lines. If cable and telephone lines are unable to be underground due to the providers inability to do so at this time, temporary wood poles will be installed so the city can continue to remove the large transmission poles. Resurfacing of the road will start shortly after the removal of poles is completed and installation of decorative street lights will follow.

Have general questions about this project or the city's overall utility undergrounding efforts? Please access [cityofwinterpark.org/fairbanks](https://cityofwinterpark.org/fairbanks) or call **407.643.1655**.



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401 South Park Avenue  
Winter Park, FL 32789

# city commission



Commissioner Marty Sullivan | Mayor Steve Leary | Commissioner Todd Weaver

Commissioner Sheila DeCiccio | Commissioner Carolyn Cooper

City Commission meetings are held monthly on the second and fourth Mondays.



## who to contact

### commission & administration

City Commission	407-599-3234
City Manager   Randy Knight	407-599-3235
Assistant City Manager   Michelle Neuner	407-599-3236
City Clerk   Rene Cranis	407-599-3277
City Information	407-599-3399
Fire-Rescue Non-Emergency	407-644-1212
Police Non-Emergency	407-644-1313

### department directors

Building & Permitting Services   George Wiggins	407-599-3237
Communications   Clarissa Howard	407-599-3343
Electric Utility   Dan D'Alessandro	407-599-3294
Finance   Wes Hamil	407-599-3292
Fire-Rescue   Chief Dan Hagedorn	407-599-3297
Information Technology   Parsram Rajaram	407-599-3432
Parks & Recreation   Jason Seeley	407-599-3334
Planning & Transportation   Bronce Stephenson	407-599-3440
Police   Chief Michael Deal	407-599-3272
Public Works   Troy Attaway	407-599-3233
Water & Wastewater Utility   David Zusi	407-599-3219

Email addresses can be found at [cityofwinterpark.org/contact](http://cityofwinterpark.org/contact)

### outages

Power & Street Light Outages	1-877-811-8700
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#### helpful info

The Winter Park *Update* is published quarterly with a circulation of approximately 16,500, including both residents and businesses.

To suggest article ideas, please contact 407-599-3343 or [choward@cityofwinterpark.org](mailto:choward@cityofwinterpark.org).

City of Winter Park | 401 S. Park Ave. | Winter Park, FL 32789